AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1-11. Canceled.

12. (original) A method of making an upholstery tack strip comprising the steps of:

(i) extruding a thermoplastic sleeve over a length of metal ribbon stock;

(ii) removing a lengthwise section of the thermoplastic sleeve to expose a corresponding lengthwise surface region of the metal ribbon stock; and

(iii) forming nail sections from said exposed corresponding surface regions of the metal ribbon stock which protrude outwardly therefrom.

13. (original) The method of claim 12, wherein step (ii) is practiced so as to remove a pair of lengthwise sections of the thermoplastic sleeve so as to expose upper and lower surface regions of the metal ribbon stock.

14. (original) The method of claim 12, wherein step (iii) is practiced so as to form generally triangularly shaped nail sections which extend outwardly from said bottom surface region of the metal ribbon stock.

15. (original) The method of claim 12, wherein said sleeve is formed of a thermoplastic material selected from the group consisting of polyolefins, nylons, polyesters, and polyvinyl chlorides.

16. (original) The method of claim 12, wherein step (ii) is practiced so as to remove a strip of thermoplastic material so as to expose a lower surface of said metal ribbon stock.

17. (original) The method of claim 16, wherein step (iii) is practiced so as to form nail sections which extend outwardly from said lower surface of said metal ribbon stock.

18. (original) The method of claim 17, wherein step (i) is practiced by passing the metal ribbon stock through a cross-head die, and coating molten thermoplastic material onto the metal ribbon stock in the die.

19. (original) The method of claim 12, wherein step (i) is practiced by passing the metal ribbon stock through a cross-head die, and coating molten thermoplastic material onto the metal ribbon stock in the die.

20. (original) The method of claim 19, further comprising, prior to step (i), the step of (i-1) roughening at least one edge of metal ribbon stock.

21. (original) The method of claim 20, wherein step (i-1) comprises roughening both edges of the metal ribbon stock.

22. (original) The method of claim 1, further comprising prior to step (i), the step of (i-1) passing the metal ribbon stock through a surface-roughening tool so as to roughen a surface thereof.

23. (original) The method of claim 22, wherein step of (i-1) includes passing the metal ribbon stock through a surface-roughening tool so as to knurl at least one edge of the metal ribbon stock.

24. (original) The method of claim 23, wherein each opposed edge of the metal ribbon stock is knurled by the practice of step of (i-1).

25. (original) The method of claim 24, comprising, prior to step (i), the step of applying an adhesive to the metal ribbon.

26. (new) A method of making an upholstery tack strip comprising the steps of:

(i) forming a composite tack strip perform comprised of a metal ribbon stock embedded within a thermoplastics sleeve by coating a length of the metal ribbon stock with a thermoplastics material; and thereafter

(ii) forming the upholstery tack strip by punching a plurality of nails from the metal ribbon stock of the composite tack strip perform so that the nails protrude outwardly therefrom.

27. (new) A method as in claim 26, wherein step (i) comprises extruding a molten thermoplastics material over a length of the metal ribbon stock.

28. (new) A method as in claim 27, wherein step (i) comprises cooling the molten thermoplastics material so as to form the thermoplastic sleeve.

29. (new) A method as in claim 26, wherein step (ii) comprises forming vestiges of the sleeve which extend downwardly through apertures of the metal ribbon stock.

30. (new) A method as in claim 26, which further comprises prior to step (ii) the step of (ia) removing a lengthwise section of the sleeve.

31. (new) A method of forming an upholstery tack strip comprising:

(i) forming a composite tack strip perform comprised of a metal ribbon stock and a sleeve formed of a plastics material covering a length of the metal ribbon stock; and thereafter

(ii) forming the upholstery tack strip by punching a plurality of outwardly extending nails from the metal ribbon stock of the composite tack strip perform thereby simultaneously creating an aperture in the metal ribbon stock and remnants of the sleeve which extend downwardly through the aperture.

32. (new) A method as in claim 31, which further comprises prior to step (ii) the step of (ia) removing a lengthwise section of the sleeve.

33. (new) A method as in claim 32, wherein step (ia) is practiced so as to remove the lengthwise section of the sleeve from a bottom surface of the metal ribbon stock, and wherein step (ii) is practiced so that the nails extend outwardly from the bottom surface of the metal ribbon stock.